

Rivera, Eva

From: DNR RE SEPACENTER <SEPACENTER@dnr.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:00 AM
To: Ask Planning
Cc: Martin, Trevor; Sears, Tricia (DNR)
Subject: FW: NTC OF HEARING & DNS - CITY OF YAKIMA PERIODIC UPDATE 2025-2026 - PRJ# 001-26, SEPA#017-26

Good morning, Trevor,

Please include the comments below from WGS of DNR as Part of the SEPA record for CITY OF YAKIMA PERIODIC UPDATE 2025-2026, SEPA File # 202604074.

Thank you,

Emma Oliver

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From: Sears, Tricia (DNR) <Tricia.Sears@dnr.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:45 PM
To: DNR RE SEPACENTER <SEPACENTER@dnr.wa.gov>
Cc: Sears, Tricia (DNR) <Tricia.Sears@dnr.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: NTC OF HEARING & DNS - CITY OF YAKIMA PERIODIC UPDATE 2025-2026 - PRJ#001-26, SEPA#017-26

Hello,

In keeping with the interagency correspondence principles, I am providing comments on Yakima's comprehensive plan amendments. On 9/24/26 I received an email from Emma at the DNR SEPACenter for the "Notice of Hearing & Determination of Non-Significance." The comments are due on 10/8/26.

For this proposal I looked at the proposal and focused on areas related to WGS work. Of note, but not limited to, I look for language around the geologically hazardous areas, mineral resource lands, mining, climate change, and natural hazards mitigation plan.

Specifically in this proposal, I reviewed the SEPA Checklist Yakima Comp_Plan, DNS_SEPA#017—26, and the NTC of Hearing & DNS_#PRJ001-26. I also reviewed two documents that were on the website, see below.

DNS SEPA#017—26

The letter states that Yakima is proposing minor amendments to the comp plan. The focus of the changes is on housing, climate resiliency, and transportation. "The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probably significant adverse impact on the environment."

NTC of Hearing & DNS #PRJ001-26

DOC. INDEX #

D-1

Similar statements in this document and the DNS. This notice states that a public hearing will be held on 10/14/26.

SEPA Checklist Yakima Comp Plan

On page 7, under question d, "Geologically hazardous areas include areas of erosion hazard, landslide hazard, seismic hazard, and other hazards, including volcanic hazards, mining hazards and channel migration zones. There are minimal steep slopes and unstable slopes subject to erosion in the northern border of the city. See Exhibit 3." The map in Exhibit 3 shows oversteepened slope and landslide areas. The map does not show all the geologically hazardous areas hazards described on page 7.

On page 21, there is discussion of natural resource lands. "There are no long-term commercially significant farmlands or forest lands within the city." "Yakima County designates mineral resource lands within the county. There are limited sites in the city with long-term commercial significance for mining." Good info.

On page 26, "Critical areas in the City of Yakima are regulated through Yakima's CAO pursuant RCW 36.70A.170. This includes geologically hazardous areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, wildlife habitat conservation areas, and wetlands."

On page 43, "The Land Use and Natural Environment elements and the new integrated climate goals and policies seek to conserve the city's natural resources."

The Checklist also describes the SMP provisions.

Overall, the Checklist is written with thoughtful and detailed information. Thank you for taking the time to provide the information, including maps, in the Checklist.

On the Yakima website, [2025-2026 Comprehensive Plan Update Program | Planning Division](#), there are draft copies of comp plan documents. I reviewed the Draft Intro, Land Use, and Housing Chapter and the Draft Natural Resources, Shoreline, and Energy Chapter.

Draft Intro, Land Use, and Housing Chapter

The document is well written and laid out in an attractive, easy to follow format. The term critical areas is mentioned four times. Suggest listing the critical areas that Yakima has. The term hazard is mentioned twenty times. The term geologic hazard is not used, but natural hazards are mentioned. Suggest stating the specific geologically hazardous area hazards that Yakima has. Suggest mentioning natural hazards mitigation plan, the climate resilience information, and the interrelationship. And if that information will be described in another chapter in more detailed ways, state that.

Draft Natural Resources, Shoreline, and Energy Chapter

Here is the more detailed info about critical areas! ON page 10-4, "In the City, three types of geological hazards have been mapped: high risk landslides, intermediate and high risk over-steepened slopes, and channel migration zones that are associated with shoreline waterbodies (Exhibit 10-1)." Thank you for stating this information. Exhibit 10-1 is the same map included in the SEPA Checklist. See those comments above. This chapter includes Exhibit 10-2 Underlying Geology, Exhibit 10-3 Liquefaction Susceptibility, and Exhibit 10-4 NEHRP Seismic Site Class. Suggest stating which map is used for each of the geologically hazardous areas hazards.

Great to see Goal 10.5 with the policies, related to geologically hazardous areas. Nice to See Exhibit 10-12 Natural Environment Element Implementation. Plans like the natural hazard mitigation plan and a climate plan could be added to the table.

Below, I include our usual language for this and future endeavors.

Recognizing the limitations of the current proposals, I want to mention that it would be great for you to consider these in current or future work, be it in your comprehensive plan, development code, and SMP updates, and in your work in general:

- Consider adding a reference to the definition of geologically hazardous areas, WAC 365-190-120, in other areas besides the CAO. In addition, consider adding a reference to WAC 365-196-480 for natural resource lands.
- Consider adding in other areas besides the CAO. If you have not checked our interactive database, the Washington Geologic Information Portal, lately, you may wish to do so. [Geologic Information Portal | WA - DNR](#)
- If you have not checked out our Geologic Planning page, you may wish to do so. [Geologic Planning | WA - DNR](#)

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Have a great day!

Tricia

Tricia R. Sears (she/her/hers)

Geologic Planning Liaison

Washington Geological Survey (WGS)

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

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